

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 PM-04 ORM-02 SAB-01 SCS-03 SCA-01

PA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 FDRE-00 HEW-02 INR-07 NSAE-00

PRS-01 DHA-02 EB-07 IO-11 IGA-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 H-02 NSC-05 SS-15 OC-05 CCO-00 PC-01

A-01 /139 W

----- 085232

O R 132357Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6748

PANCANAL

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 1147

FOR AMBASSADOR MELOY FROM AMBASSADOR JORDEN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, SREF, PN, GT

SUBJECT: GUATEMALAN EARTHQUAKE: GOP REQUEST FOR TRANSPORTATION  
ASSISTANCE

REFS: A. PANAMA 1050

B. PANAMA 1058

C. STATE 346665

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA HAS REQUESTED THE ASSISTANCE OF  
THE U.S. MILITARY TO MOVE APPROXIMATELY 140,000 LBS. OF  
RELIEF SUPPLIES, PRIMARILY FOOD AND CLOTHING COLLECTED IN  
PANAMA, TO GUATEMALA (REFTELS). THE AIRLIFT CAPABILITY OF THE  
PANAMANIAN AIR FORCE, WHICH HAS MOVED SEVERAL PLANE LOADS  
OF SUCH MATERIAL, IS INADEQUATE FOR THE TASK. PANAMA WOULD  
PREFER TO MOVE THIS MATERIAL HERSELF, BUT CANNOT. THE GOP,  
PARTICULARLY OFFICIALS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD, THUS ATTACH  
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CONSIDERABLE PRIORITY TO THIS REQUEST.

2. I UNDERSTAND AND GENERALLY AGREE THAT WE SHOULD NOT NORMALLY UNDERTAKE TO MOVE SUCH MATERIAL FOR THIRD COUNTRIES (REF C). HOWEVER, PANAMA IS SOMETHING OF A SPECIAL CASE. MANY OF THE PLANES (C-130) MOVING USG SUPPLIES FOR YOU ARE BASED HERE, IN THE CANAL ZONE. THE NATIONAL GUARD HAS PROVIDED HELPFUL ASSISTANCE IN REFUELING US ARMY HELICOPTERS FROM THE CANAL ZONE IN TRANSIT TO AND FROM GUATEMALA. THE LOCAL PRESS HAS GIVEN UNUSUALLY FAVORABLE PLAY TO DAILY RELEASES BY USSOUTHCOM DESCRIBING OUR RELIEF EFFORTS. THE SOUTHERN COMMAND MILITARY RADIO AND TELEVISION NETWORK IN THE CANAL ZONE HAS BEEN FULL OF LITTLE ELSE IN LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE FOR DAYS.

3. AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING TO BUILD A CLOSE AND HARMONIOUS COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL GUARD, LOOKING TOWARD THE DAY WHEN IT WILL PARTICIPATE JOINTLY WITH US FORCES IN THE DEFENSE OF THE CANAL UNDER A NEW CANAL TREATY. WHILE THE INTRINSIC SIGNIFICANCE OF AN ACTION SUCH AS THEY REQUEST IN THIS CASE IS NOT GREAT IN ITSELF, GENERAL US RECEPTIVITY TO SUCH REQUESTS FOR COOPERATION IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE RELATIONSHIP WE SEEK.

4. MOREOVER, PANAMA IS WELL AWARE THAT THE C-130'S BASED IN THE CANAL ZONE PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR GUATEMALA RELIEF, BUT ARE ALSO FLYING OTHER MISSIONS. OUR FAILURE TO RESPOND TO THEIR REQUEST COULD BE COMBINED WITH KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH OTHER MISSIONS. AND BE BLOWN UP INTO A DISTORTED ATTACK ON THE RESPONSIVENESS AND HUMANITY OF OUR MILITARY PRESENCE HERE. THIS WOULD, OF COURSE, DO US NO GOOD AT ALL.

5. I APPRECIATE THE LOGISTIC PROBLEMS WHICH GIVE MATERIAL SUCH AS THAT COLLECTED IN PANAMA A LOWER PRIORITY TO YOU THAN OTHER ITEMS, AND WOULD NOT SUGGEST ANYTHING WHICH MIGHT DIVERT OUR AIRCRAFT ASSISTS FROM PROVIDING PRIORITY SUPPORT. HOWEVER, IF OUR MILITARY COULD ARRANGE THE REQUIRED LIFT WITHOUT DETRIMENT TO YOUR OTHER REQUIREMENTS, AND IF YOU DO NOT FEEL THAT RECEIVING THE PANAMANIAN GOODS WOULD BE ACTUALLY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO YOUR RELIEF WORK, I FEEL IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY BENEFICIAL TO US HERE IF YOU COULD AGREE TO CONCUR IN OUR REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAKE AN EXCEPTION TO OUR GENERAL POLICY

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AND SEEK TO ARRANGE TO LIFT THE PANAMANIAN GOODS TO GUATEMALA.  
BEST REGARDS.  
JORDEN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISASTER RELIEF, EARTHQUAKES, TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** powellba  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976PANAMA01147  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760056-0414  
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**Office:** ACTION AID  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 PANAMA 1050  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GUATEMALAN EARTHQUAKE: GOP REQUEST FOR TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MILI, SREF, PN, GT, US  
**To:** GUATEMALA  
**Type:** TE  
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